

## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO

Hanoi July 13, 1968

To President Nguyen Huu Tho  
Members of the South Vietnamese N.F.L. and  
the Command of the South Vietnamese P.L.A.F.

**C**LOSELY united and fighting valiantly, the armed forces and people in Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hué have won a resounding victory, forcing some ten thousand most crack troops of the U.S. to flee from Khe Sanh with very serious losses. This is a heavy defeat to the U.S., and a big victory to us.

The victory at Khe Sanh has clearly shown the resourcefulness and the invincible strength of our armed forces, people and cadres. It has made a worthy contribution to the big victory of the whole of South Vietnamese since the Spring. Together with the victories on other battlefields, it has paved the way for yet bigger ones. To the North Vietnamese Nam which has just won the victory in downing the aircraft of the U.S. aggressors, the glorious Khe Sanh victory has greatly inspired the North Vietnamese armed forces and people to make greater efforts and shoot down many more piratic U.S. aircraft. Despite their defeats, the U.S. aggressors remain very obstinate. Our people, fighters and cadres, therefore, should always sharpen their vigilance, fight continuously, with vigour and success.

The South and the North are of one mind in making all-out efforts to fight the aggressor. Final victory is sure to be ours.

My dear friends, to all the people, fighters and cadres across South Vietnamese, particularly the ones at the Khe Sanh front, my warmest congratulations.

Please accept my affectionate and "determination to win" wishes

HO CHI MINH

# VIETNAM

# COURIER

July 15

1968

No 173

5th Year

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P.L.A.F. assaulting Height 622 at Khe Sanh

## KHE SANH BASE FELL ON JULY 9

U.S. LOSSES SINCE JANUARY 1968:

17,000 Men Put out of Action, 488 Planes and Helicopters Shot Down or Destroyed on the Ground. Over 100 Military Vehicles, 60 Cannons and Mortars, 50 Ammunition and Fuel Dumps Destroyed or Burnt, Thousands of Weapons and Hundreds of Tons of Food and War Materials Seized.

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### TWO YEARS AFTER

### PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S APPEAL

## NATIONAL UNITY, KEY FACTOR OF VICTORY

WITH raids on Hanoi and Haiphong two years ago, Washington's "escalation" began to climb its highest peak. Our people had to face the most cruel aggression ever known in their history — even in universal history, in terms of the war means used by the aggressors.

President in His July 17, 1966 speech, Ho Chi Minh said: "National unity is more important than independence and freedom." In response to his call, our people took up the U.S. challenge.

United as one man, they have successfully foiled the enemy's plan. The American imperialists have achieved no objective, neither in North nor in South Viet Nam. On the contrary, their defeat has become obvious and our victory certain.

More than 3,000 U.S. planes have been shot down over North Viet Nam. Its resistance base of the whole country which Washington wanted to subdue or to "bomb back into the Stone

Age" but which has grown steadier than ever. Never before has the political and moral unity of our people been so strong. In connection with every passing day, the various strata of our people have been closing their ranks around the Party, the Government and President Ho Chi Minh to defeat the U.S. war of destruction, fulfil their duties towards their kith and kin in the South and build up socialism. Tempered in the trial, they have grown up.

Living up to their vanguard revolutionary role, our glorious working class has shown its courage and its creativity in production and in the fighting. In spite of the many savage raids, our transport and communications not only have not been halted but have even substantially increased. Industry has not only been kept going but has even made progress, particularly at the province, district and village level. Let us cite one example: Quang

(Continued page 2)

## The 1954 Geneva Agreements Acknowledged the Victory of the Vietnamese People's Struggle for Independence and Freedom

THE 1954 Geneva Agreements were concluded 14 years ago, about 3 months after the historic battle of Dien Bien Phu.

Putting an end to a colonial war, they victoriously crowned the long resistance waged by the entire Vietnamese people from North to South under the direction of the Government of the D.R.V.N. They granted recognition to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam.

At the closing session, all the participants in the 1954 Geneva Conference undertook to respect the Geneva Agreements and to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of the Vietnamese people.

On behalf of the U.S. Government, General Bedell Smith declared that his country also undertook to respect the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia and Laos, and to refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb the accords.

But, one day later, General E. G. White, then Ambassador of the U.S.A., declared that "the United States has not itself been party to, or bound by, the decisions taken by the conference [of Ge-

neva]..."

The American imperialists were determined to thoroughly sabotage the Geneva Agreements.

With a train of U.S. puppets, expeditionary troops and extremely odious crimes, for four years now, systematically and openly, the U.S. of the Geneva Agreements has always been a constant in Washington's Viet Nam policy.

### A NEW LANGUAGE

But, it very bad turn the U.S. in South Viet Nam. Washington seems to change its tone. If, in his Baltimore speech, Mr. Johnson only made a vague reference to the "fundamental principles of the Geneva Agreements," he affirmed "old agreements," the communiqué issued by the White House

on Jan. 3, 1966 put it more explicitly: "The Geneva Agreements of 1954, as an adhesive basis for peace in Southeast Asia."

At the Paris official conversations, Mr. Averell Harriman laid emphasis on the "fundamental value, so to speak, of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam right in his first speech. He has on many occasions harped back to this occasion, always to clarify a little more the views of his Government.

The American thesis boils down to this: South Viet Nam is victim of an aggression by the U.S. and therefore to settle the problem of the war in Viet Nam, it is necessary to revert to the "fundamental principles of the Geneva Agreements of 1954." For Washington, the Accord on the cessation of hostilities (Continued page 7)

## \* RESOLUTELY MARCH FORWARD AND COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE AMERICAN WAR OF DESTRUCTION

General VAN TIEN DUNG  
(See Supplement)

# NATIONAL UNITY, KEY FACTOR OF VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

Bihi, province near the 19th parallel which had practically no industry, can now boast 38 factories. The working class has grown rapidly and standard is high. In 1967, the total of workers and employees rose by 350,000 in comparison with 1965, 70 per cent of our labor force are made up of young workers, healthy and possessed of high cultural and technical level. With the growth of the working class, the role of trade unions in national life has been enhanced.

The class of co-op peasants has provided the bulk of draftsmen in the army, and continuing the peasant militia of our rear base. The peasant militia units have far shot down 1,800 U.S. planes, 865 vehicles, 2,000 tanks, 2,200 (2 provinces) yearly yielded 5 tons of padded per hectare in 1965, only 100 co-ops in 162 villages, 7 districts participated the 5,300 mark — Upper

the colonialist and feudal regime, 1.3 tons/ha). Co-op farmers have also been a major force in the communication battle. Most remarkable is the fact that the percentage of co-op farmers grew from 81.6 in 1965 to 93.7 in 1967. Vinh Linh area closer to the 17th parallel is now 99.4.

As to the intellectuals, their tremendous efforts have brought about a rapid increase in agriculture, industry, transport and communications... and also resulted in an unprecedented development in education, public health, scientific research, literature, arts, culture and social activities.

Our youth have always been in the forefront. They have taken the pledge to be ready.

To valiantly fight U.S. aggression and join the army when necessary.

To overcome all difficulties, to work up production, work under any circumstances.

accounted for 33.85 per cent of the total strength, even 50 per cent in certain areas — as against 20.5 per cent in 1965. 65 per cent of the manpower of the country is now in the co-ops, in factories and state offices, the percentage went up from 28.5 in 1965 to 32.5 in 1967. 49 per cent of the agricultural population are women. In 1967, 47.42 per cent and 45.79 per cent of the population are respectively to village and district people's councils were women. The percentage was 38.2 in 1965. The percentage to the people's councils of province (April 28, 1968).

Elderly people have also made a great contribution in the struggle against U.S. aggression. Units made up of old militiamen — aged 50 and above — have so far shot down 6 U.S. planes.

Unity of all nationalities, fruit of centuries of struggle against foreign aggression and for the building of the country, was the top political and social struggle, with the past resistance against the French colonialists, the present against the U.S. aggressors as well as with the building of socialism, the present against the various national minorities have effectively contributed to the fight against U.S. aggression, for national independence, to their strong solidarity.

Answering President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, we will strengthen even more our vigilance and heighten even more our vigilance; final victory will be ours. Political and moral identity of mind and will, the sense of unity and the sense of the people constitute an invincible force which can defy any weapon.

to the fight against U.S. imperialism and enemy communists. Catholic areas have also their own militia units.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the highest symbol of our national unity, includes various political, cultural and mass organizations. It has

stated in its manifesto:

"...the majority of our people shows that each time our nation is faced with a hard trial our people succeed in defeating the U.S. and foreign enemies by achieving great national unity in the fighting."

We need not go far back to ancient history to prove it.

Thanks to their broad unity, our people successfully repelled the French in 1858, 1861, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 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# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## Military Operations

### \* Ta Con Seized by P.L.A.F. — The Whole of Khe Sanh

Liberated — U.S. Losses Between June 26 and July 9:

1,700 G.I.s Put out of Action, 35 Planes and Choppers Shot Down or Destroyed.

### \* 750 Enemy Troops Killed, Wounded or Taken Prisoner in 9 Days in Other Areas of Quang Tri Province,

### \* 200 Military Vehicles and 36 Copters Destroyed or

Damaged, a Regiment's and a Battalion's Commanding Units and 2 Companies of Puppet Division 1 Destroyed

Near Hue.

**A**s announced in the *Khe Sanh* Front Command published in page 4, the whole of this sector was liberated early in July 9, when P.L.A.F. hoisted their flag on Ta Con, the key position of the U.S. entrenched camp. Thus, from June 26 (when U.S. troops began their retreat to July 9, the Americans lost nearly 1,700 men killed or wounded in this sector.

Between July 1 and 9, 1,000 U.S. Marines were put out of action, and 22 aircraft destroyed on the ground or shot down. Tough fighting took place on the night of July 3, when hills 845, 849 and 689, where 150 G.I.s were killed or wounded and two helicopters cut down by P.L.A.F. automatic arms fire.

In an ambush on July 3, 23 vehicles of an enemy convoy were destroyed. In Ta Con were destroyed on Highway No 9. On the afternoon of July 4 alone, the U.S. lost over this sector 10 aircraft, 4 P-4 "Phantom" fighter-bombers and 44 *Skystreaks*.

The combats at hills 845, 832, 689 and 630 on

July 5 and 6 cost the enemy 2 companies wiped out and 5 helicopters and a *Phantom* fighter-bomber shot down.

On July 7, which the enemy forces in several positions were assembling for an assault by helicopters, Liberation gunners pounded Hills 689 and 832 and 471. Then Liberation infantrymen charged and engaged the enemy force in fierce hand-to-hand fighting, and later in the day completely liberated Hills 845, 832, 552 and 471, brought down 2 planes and 200 wounded, shot down 2 choppers in good shape.

Giving no breathing space to the enemy in complete disarray, the P.L.A.F. pressed on their attacks against the remaining enemy positions on July 8 and 9, turning the Marine retreat into a great debacle.

**F**URTHER East, in the Dong Ha — Con Thien sector, the enemy 1,700 men put out of action and 10 armoured cars destroyed between June 27 and July 5. In An Hoa, sector of Quang Tri province, captured on June 27, the P.L.A.F. killed, wounded or captured

### ENEMY LOSSES IN JUNE

- 55,750 men put out of action, including 16,400 G.I.s and satellite troops.
- 13 battalions, one armoured squadron and 33 companies wiped out or decimated.
- 275 planes and helicopters downed or destroyed, 150 military vehicles including 350 tanks and armoured cars, destroyed or damaged, 61 vessels burnt or sunk.
- 80 artillery pieces, 30 ammunition and fuel depots, and 20 bridges destroyed or set afire.
- 50 military posts flattened.

### IN THE SAIGON AREA ALONE

- 17,500 enemy troops (including 7,500 G.I.s) put out of action.
- 40 aircraft downed or destroyed, 200 military vehicles destroyed or damaged, 25 vessels burnt or sunk.

**F**ROM Nam's black beard people would think he was about sixty. But his shining eyes under bushy brows made him look fifty. Quite right. Recently when he fought an American chopper, he was exactly fifty.

It was a cloudless morning. A chopper rattled in from Quang Tri town, along Highway No 9. Nam was working with his co-villagers in a field nearby. The plane's noise got on his nerves as these last few months there had been such flights over village near enemy's encampment to kidnap suspects. Nam's guerrilla team was preparing to inflict punishment on the gangsters.

Nam's regret the hand-grenade did not explode. As he was about to be caught by the Yank who had jumped to his feet from under the plane, he sprang up and ran at full speed in the direction of the village, with other G.I.s on his heels firing frantic shots. Then he tripped and tumbled on a cloud. He was dragged along and flung into the helicopter which immediately revved up. Nam stole a look at the Yankees but did not understand what they were saying to one another about him. A fellow sitting opposite him said in Vietnamese with a broad Yankee accent: "You, Vietcong, are

## An "Old" Guerilla on Highway No 9

*That morning, before going to the field, on order from the chief guerrilla, he had brought along a hand-grenade which he carried hidden in his belt for self-defence. The chopper spotted him and swooped down like a vulture falling on its prey. He heard from an electric megaphone an exhortation in imperfect Vietnamese: "Vietcong, surrender!"*

*The crowd dispersed in a stampede. Only Nam did not move. The chopper hovered in the air. Its rotor-blade nearly lifted the "old" guerrilla up and was about to blow his cloth to shreds with the whirlwind it stirred up. It landed at twenty metres from him. Yankees swarmed out. Nam whipped out his hand-grenade, removed its safety pin, hurled it and crouched on the ground. The Yankees scrambled back to the helicopter. One of them slipped under the craft for cover.*

*The dead silence. Much to*

*so daring. You'll be put to death."*

*Through the plane's half-open door, Nam saw Highway No 9 winding beneath like a big grey snake. He winched at a Yankee standing nearby to gauge the distance between them. All of a sudden, as moved by a supernatural power, he sprang to his feet and kicked the enemy in the chest. As the G.I. fell with his arms spread out, the guerrilla snatched his M-16 gun and pulled the trigger. Bullets rained on the G.I.s in the cockpit. Two of them fell on him. He wriggled out of their grasp, clasped another coming his way and both tumbled out just when the cockpit caught fire. The chopper staggered and crashed on a ricefield. A thick black cloud of smoke rose up.*

*When the guerrillas and villagers ran to the spot they found Nam unconscious on top of a Yank, his hands squeezing hard his adversary's neck.*

H. T.



G.I.s captured by the P.L.A.F.